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Mubarak begins China visit

AMMAN (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Beijing for an official visit Friday and was told that China was stable one year after communist leader Deng Xiaoping gave the assurance in December 1989 that socialist reforms would continue outside Beijing's Tiananmen Square. One of his first acts as president, Deng imposed martial law in Beijing and closed in the Chinese Capital last month. Yang was quoted by the official New China News Agency as saying this showed the two countries had a special relationship and that China's stability was important in Egypt. The three-day visit by the Egyptian president is seen by Western diplomats as a much-needed boost to China's image. China has been blamed by Western economists since the army's bloody crackdown on protesters last June. New studies have also arisen with Eastern Europe as Beijing's hovering rulers resist reforms that have forced Communists in that region to share or lose power.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردن تنشر يومياً معاشرة تجربة المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية (الرأي)

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Jawara begins visit Sunday

Crown Prince pays tribute to ATF

AMMAN (Petra) — Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara will start an official visit to Jordan Sunday, an official spokesman for the Royal Court said. The spokesman said the president's several-day visit comes in response to an invitation by His Majesty King Hussein.

SPLA claims control of key town

NAIROBI (R) — South Sudan rebels said Friday they had captured a key garrison town on the River Nile. The fall of Melut, 550 kilometres south of Khartoum, cut the route linking the government-held towns of Koord and Malakal and gave the rebels control of Nile River traffic, the Sudan People's Liberation (SPLA) said. Rebel radio, monitored to Kenya, said the SPLA attack on Melut was launched two days ago.

Britain to test new bomb detector

LONDON (R) — Britain said Friday it would test a new bomb-detecting machine which can reveal plastic explosives of the type which destroyed a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie 1988. The U.S.-made thermal neutral analysis machine is being installed at London's Gatwick airport for a year-long trial beginning in July, the Transport Department said. The machine would be used at first to check bags of passengers flying by U.S. airlines.

Algerians stage protest march

ALGIERS (R) — Several thousand veterans of Algeria's war of independence against France and their sons marched through the capital Friday to demand a mysterious rash of attacks on the tombs of fallen comrades. Several dozen tombs in martyrs' cemeteries in the south and east have been tipped up and defaced in recent weeks for unknown motives, causing a national outcry. "Hang the attackers of martyrs' tombs" and "Respect our martyrs equals preserving our independence" were some of the banners carried by the mostly aged, flag-waving men marching in a steady drizzle along a port-side boulevard. At a rally at Martyrs' Square, an official of the National Organisation of Sons of Martyrs broke into sobs as he denounced "enemies of the country" and "soldiers of the devil" who had desecrated symbols of the country's hard-won independence.

Argentine ambassador arrives in London

LONDON (AP) — The first Argentine ambassador to Britain since the Falkland Islands war said Friday that he believes the two countries will resolve their differences in coming years. Both countries still claim sovereignty over the British colony, which the Argentines call the Malvinas. "The Malvinas are still there but what is important is that the two countries have established diplomatic relations and we are convinced that we are on the way to building up a new special relationship between the two countries in so many aspects," Mario Campora said as he arrived at Heathrow airport. Argentina recently restored diplomatic and air links that were severed during the conflict in 1982.

U.N. chief visits Albania

TIRANA (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Albania Friday on the first such visit to Europe's last orthodox Communist state. Perez de Cuellar, who arrived from Budapest, was met at Tirana airport by Albanian Foreign Minister Razi Malle with whom he was to hold talks later in the day. Thousands of Albanians lined streets of the capital to watch the U.N. chief's motorcade.

Army siege on Bethlehem seen as economic pressure

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops forced Bethlehem shops to close for a sixth straight day Friday in what the army called a response to Palestinian stone-throwing.

Residents said soldiers drove through the town, the birthplace of Jesus, threatening to fine shopkeepers who refused to shut.

An army spokesman said soldiers had closed down the business district since the beginning of the week because of an increase in stone-throwing.

A kitchenware store owner was ordered to pay a \$175 fine when soldiers found him inside his shop, residents said.

They said the army usually gave them no explanation for closure orders but added the measures appeared to be another bid to impose economic pressure.

Under guidelines from the clandestine leaders of the 29-month Palestinian uprising, businesses remain open in the morning and strike in the afternoon.

In the West Bank village of

Beit Ummar near Hebron, a 30-year-old Palestinian man died Thursday night in a car accident.

Residents said Mahmud Zaidan Abo Ayash's car overturned after Jewish settlers in the West Bank hurled rocks at passers-by, injuring two Palestinians, reports and Israel's Itim news agency said.

According to Arab accounts, the settler attack was provoked by an earlier stone-throwing incident.

Hebron has seen numerous clashes between Palestinians and some 200 settlers living in the town, as well as those in Kiryat Arba.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who brought Jewish settlers to Hebron just after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 war, was sentenced on May 1 to five months in prison for killing an Hebron merchant during a 1988 stone-throwing clash.

"They smashed the windows of five cars and fired for two hours. Come and see how many bullets they shot at my house. My wife and two were beaten," Issa Baradai, a Hebron resident, told the

lead takes the credit who (the party) succeeds and should take the responsibility whenever it fails," Rabin said, speaking in English.

"I still hope that the one who was in the lead will take the responsibility and draw the conclusions," he said.

Rabin resigned as prime minister in 1977 after it was revealed that his wife, Leah, kept a bank account in the United States in violation of Israeli currency laws.

His government was already weakened at the time by the walkout of a religious party over the delivery of the Jewish Sabbath.

The radio quoted Peres as responding Friday to Rabin's charges that "everyone should judge himself and the public will judge all of us."

Peres, who has failed to win in four elections against Likud, has said he would not step down until a new party chief is chosen at the next party convention in April

1991.

"In the next elections, anybody can run," Peres said Thursday, referring to the party meeting. "But until then, a duty has been imposed on me, and I shall fulfill it."

A purported draft of a intra-party report leaked to Israeli media this week blamed Peres for Labour's recent failures and praised Rabin, who also got a boost from recent opinion polls showing him to be the nation's most popular politician.

A senior Shamir aide said the strife to Labour made the formation of another "national unity" government impossible.

"Even if Mr. Shamir wanted to form a broad government, in the current state of Labour there is no partner for such a government," he said.

Hoping to win over the ultra-religious Agudat Israel party, Shamir has pledged to pass laws banning indecent advertising and the sale of pork.

"I believe that whoever is in

18 Arab states accept May 28 Baghdad summit

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Oman announced Friday that it would attend the proposed Arab summit in Iraq, raising to 18 the number of Arab countries that have confirmed their attendance at the conference.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esamat Abdul-Meguid, who was with President Hosni Mubarak in Muscat Thursday before the Omani decision was announced, said it was "difficult to find an alternative" for Baghdad as a venue since a large number of Arab countries had already accepted the proposal.

The research tackles the future of education in the Arab World and results of the project will be discussed at one of the largest conference of its kind which will be opened by His Majesty King Hussein Saturday.

Prince Hassan thanked Sheikh Abdulla Al Mubarik Al Sabah and Dr. Saud Al Sabah for financing the project.

Prince Hassan announced that the long serving ATF secretary general, Saaduddin Ibrahim, will quit his post, which he retained for seven years and will act as general coordinator of the second ATF research project, "Scopes of Regional Arab Integration in the Nigeties."

The Crown Prince noted the dedicated work done by Dr. Ibrahim and pointed out that his post will be taken over by Sayyed Yasser Arafat, the present director of the Cairo-based Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies.

Prince Hassan said he had prepared a paper carrying ideas and questions about what has been termed by Arab intelligence as "the lost Arab decade" — in an apparent reference to the eighties — the decade of development which was not fully utilized by Arab countries.

The ATF General Assembly Friday adopted a decision to admit the Jordanian Forum Humanum to the ATF considering its members as full-fledged active members in the forum.

Irbid moves to enforce ban on male hairdressers

By Ghadeer Taher

Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Local authorities in Irbid have taken steps to enforce a regulation by the Ministry of Interior banning male hairdressers from working in beauty salons catering to women, salon owners in the northern town said Friday.

Hebron has seen numerous clashes between Palestinians and some 200 settlers living in the town, as well as those in Kiryat Arba.

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"I believe that whoever is in



A scene from Friday's charity walk organised by Medical Aid for Palestinians (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Thousands march to help raise funds for Palestinians

By Sami Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A few thousand people of all ages walked 23 kilometres from the Inter-Continental Hotel to Yaduda Friday in an effort to raise funds for Palestinians in the occupied territories, after which a few thousand more joined at Yaduda to attend a traditional "souk" (market) resembling that of the Old City of Jerusalem.

"I feel as if I'm almost in Jerusalem, except here there are no Israeli soldiers, no tear-gas, no shooting, no beating," said Dr. Swee Chai Ang, orthopaedic surgeon and one of the founders of the London-based Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), organizers of the charity walk.

Many owners of beauty salons, both male and female, were "rounded up" by Irbid police and taken to the municipality and were asked to sign a paper pledging not to employ male hairdressers, said one owner of a beauty parlour for women, salon owners in the northern town said Friday.

According to the salon owner, who said he was among those taken to the municipality, said over 20 salon owners had signed the "official" paper as of Friday.

"We tried to explain to police and the municipal authorities that our understanding of the ministry's regulation is that it only applies to persons seeking to license new beauty salons," he said, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"The municipal authorities and police said that the regulation means that once any permit expires, the ban will then apply to salons licensed before the ban was issued," he said.

Police have given salon owners one week to get documentary substantiation to the fact that the ban only

(Continued on page 2)

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Sabbah praises King's efforts

KARAK (Petra) — Jerusalem Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah affirmed Friday that His Majesty's King Hussein's efforts had great influence in bolstering the national unity between the people of the one nation. The patriarch, who was on a visit to Karak, emphasized the King's role in defending the rights and protecting the holy places in the Holy City of Jerusalem. "The incidents taking place in Jerusalem ring the alarm of a very serious situation which threatens the future of the city," he said. "Jerusalem remained secure and peaceful and used to be the place where the followers of all divine religions used to live in harmony and love until the sanctity of the holy places was breached," he said. The patriarch said he was carrying in his visit to Jordan two messages. "The first," he said, "is the message of love and unity and the second is the message of peace in Jerusalem." Sabbah conducted a mass at the Karak Catholic Church during which the first communion for 40 children took place.

made up to 70 per cent of the pupils failed to vote, mostly for the lack of interest.

The preparatory committee will be entrusted with laying down the groundwork and defining the charter for the formation of a general students federation that would eventually encompass some 50,000 undergraduates in the four universities and some 50 community colleges throughout the Kingdom.

The elections had been set to single out a preparatory committee between two schools of thought, according to the same source.

The first trend, advocated by the Islamists and left-wing movements, favoured the creation of a federation covering all the Kingdom's higher education institutes. The second trend, cherished by independents, was in favour of forming a federation restricted only to the campus of the University of Jordan, the oldest and biggest in the

(Continued on page 2)

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U.S. puzzled by Israeli charge it is consorting with Arab states

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it was confused by Israeli accusations that it was consorting with Arab states to halt a wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens accused Washington Wednesday of helping Arab states draft a U.N. resolution condemning Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and East Jerusalem.

In a rare publicised rebuke, Arens summoned U.S. Ambassador William Brown, saying the meeting was necessary because the Security Council resolution was "dedicated to an Arab attack on the right of Jews to immigrate to Israel."

"We find the foreign minister's comments a little confusing," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

"We wholeheartedly support Jewish emigration from the

Soviet Union and absorption...into Israel. We have and we will continue to press for steps that facilitate and expedite that emigration, such as direct flights, and minister Arens is very well aware of this," she said.

Tutwiler said Washington drew a distinction between Soviet Jews moving to Israel, which it supported, and their absorption into Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, which it opposed.

A State Department official said the Arab states had been unable to agree on a resolution and had requested an indefinite postponement.

Arab envoys at the United Nations Thursday rejected several U.S. amendments to a propo-

osed Security Council Resolution deplored Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

"There are several amend-

ments that the Americans have submitted that don't meet with the approval of the Arab group," said Ambassador Karim Al Shukr of Bahrain, current chairman of the group.

The draft resolution, sponsored by the Council's Non-Aligned members, stems from a debate requested by the Soviet Union in a Feb. 12 letter citing "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories."

In the past the United States has called Israeli settlements an obstacle to peace but stopped short of describing them as illegal.

Ambassador Abdalla Al Ashtal of South Yemen, a member of the Security Council, said the draft already had the backing of 14 of the Council's 15 members. The Arab group was seek-

ing a unanimous vote.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said the United States had merely been doing its job as a permanent member of the Security Council.

"We have not taken a position

on that resolution or any specific resolution," he said.

Israel said the United States had been helping the Arab states draft a milder version of the resolution instead of vetoing it outright.

Tutwiler's mild comments appeared to signal that Washington was not interested in escalating its war of words with Israel, which in recent weeks has strained relations between the two countries.

The United States is still hop-

ing for a government to emerge from Israel's political crisis capable and willing to move towards dialogue with Palestinians, although this appears increasingly unlikely.

Arab papers urge summit unity

NICOSIA (R) — Arab communi-

cations between Baghdad and Damascus to...confront the Zion- is entity," said Bahrain's Al-Khalil paper.

Syria has said it will not attend

the summit in Iraq. Damascus backed Iran in the eight-year Gulf war that halted in 1988 and Baghdad has since supported opponents of Syria in Lebanon.

The semi-official Syrian newspaper Al Thawra said the summit would not serve higher Arab interests and lacked "clarity of aims and strategic views."

"It will merely be serving per-

sonal ends," the paper said without elaborating.

Oakaz newspaper of Saudi Ara-

bia said the kingdom's agreement to attend "reaffirms its concern to

consolidate Arab unity in facing all challenges."

Riyadh earlier said a summit

should not be held unless all Arab League members attended.

Riyadh, along with Egypt and other states, has tried this month

to reconcile Iraq and Syria:

The Palestinian newspaper Al Quds, published in the Israeli-occupied areas, also called for Arabs to bury their differences.

"The Palestinian issue...must prompt Arab leaders to rise to the level of their historic responsibility."

The Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation is alarmed that moves

towards Middle East peace have

stalled and that many Soviet Jew-

ish immigrants will settle in the

occupied areas, blocking Palesti-

nian hopes of setting up an inde-

pendent state.

Israeli officials say 800,000

Soviet Jews could arrive by 1995.

Qatar's Ar-Rayā newspaper

called for "intensive Arab efforts

to persuade Damascus to attend

the summit and resolve its differ-

ences with Baghdad."

Morocco, Libya and Somalia

have not said whether they would

attend.

Reports from the Gulf this

week, however, said Iranian lead-

ers were showing unusual interest

in a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Neither side has disclosed the

contents, or even the exact nature

of the unprecedented message.

Iran's ally Syria has referred to it

as a personal letter to President Ali Al-Khalil Rafsanjani from Hussein.

Rafsanjani said cautiously

Wednesday that he saw "some

signs" of good intention from

Iraq. He has also written to Syri-

an President Hafez Al-Assad

about the Iraqi message, which

was received at least 10 days ago.

Foreign Minister Ali Al-Khalil

Velayati refused to discuss the

letter on an Iranian television

programme Thursday but said

Tehran would welcome any pro-

motion which promoted peace.

Iran's National Security Coun-

cil discussed the letter from Iraq

on May 1. Tehran Radio said it

was about "peace negotiations

and the regional situation."

Rafsanjani emerged as Iran's

most powerful political leader after

the death last year of Ayatollah

Ruhollah Khomeini. Accord-

ing to the Iranian News Agency

(IRNA) he said Wednesday "we are

still not sure of the other

side's good intentions, although

some signs in this regard have

been set."

Damascus Radio reported that

a message which President Assad

received from Rafsanjani Thursday

"deal with the letter which

was sent by the Iraqi president to

the Iranian president."

A newspaper in the United

Arab Emirates (UAE) said a group

of intellectuals from the UAE had

sent a cable to Kuwait's

Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al

Sabah asking for the release of

the men.

The U.S. State Department

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ACC labour ministers meet in Sana'a

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 4th meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) labour ministers, which will be held in Sana'a May 15. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings will be headed by Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat. The three-day meeting will crystallise a mechanism to enhance cooperation among the ACC countries.

Soviet ambassador visits Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Soviet ambassador at large Igor Andropov Thursday arrived in Amman at the beginning of a two-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on issues of mutual concern.

EC may help paper industry

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the European Community (EC) Investment Bank Friday visited the Arab Company for International Investment and Trade and inspected the company's factories. The team said they would discuss with European companies, producing the same line of products, to set up a joint Jordanian-European project, or to provide the company with technical expertise in a bid to reoperate the company's soap and paper tissues production. Reoperating the factories will provide 100 new job opportunities.

RJ advisory council holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The second meeting for the Royal Jordanian (RJ) advisory council starts here Saturday with several Jordanian and world advisors participating. The two-day meetings will focus on issues of interest to the Royal Jordanian, including its operation plan and financing, as well as tourism in Jordan and aviation cooperation in the Arab Cooperation Council states.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdal Haimeed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Abir Abu Judeh, Samaa Al Bourini and Hadil Bassam at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting national heritage, nature and the Arab woman by Laila Al Shawwa at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of original aerial photos by Jane Tailor at hotel Jordan Intercontinental (all photos are for sale in aid of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem).

THEATRE

- ★ English play entitled "The Brothel's Family" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "Es-Sadeh — an important archaeological site in southern Jordan" by Dr. Manfred Linder at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic on "The Soviet Jewish Immigration to Palestine" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Badrani details Jordan's stand on domestic, Middle East issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has succeeded over the past few months to contain the economic crisis in Jordan and to stabilise the rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar in its drive to implement an economic restructuring programme, Prime Minister Mudar Badran was quoted as saying in an interview published in London.

"Current policies adopted by the government are intended to reduce the margin of deficit in the national budget, increase national exports and encourage investments," the Prime Minister said in statements published in the London-based magazine, "Al Majalah."

Referring to the corruption cases in Jordan, he said that the issue was dwelt on by the public prosecutor together with the judicial authorities. "The government, for its part, will soon submit to the Lower House of Parliament a draft law on dealing with economic crimes," Badran said.

In reply to a question about Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation on the local and regional levels, the Prime Minister said that a recent visit to Jordan by King Hussein's endeavours at

the international level, the Prime Minister said, has helped to spread awareness among the world public opinion about dangers inherent in this immigration. He said pan-Arab efforts are continuing to convince the Soviet Union of the grave consequences of this immigration which aims at uprooting Palestinians from their homeland.

But Badran denied that discussion covered the reopening of Palestinian offices in Jordan.

Referring to incidents in which certain elements infiltrated from Jordan into the occupied Palestinian land, the Prime Minister said they were of an individual and isolated nature; he also said that all Arab states confronting Israel realise the need for ensuring Jordan's stability and security so as to deny Israel the chance to exploit and benefit from such incidents.

Referring to the upcoming summit, he said that Jordan and Palestine had been spearheading efforts to convene this summit which is expected to chart a pan-Arab strategy to deal with Soviet Jewish immigration and other pressing issues.

King Hussein's endeavours at

the coming summit, he said that Jordan and Palestine have agreed on coordinating efforts in political, informational, educational, cultural, economic and social cooperation that would benefit the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," the Prime Minister said.

Asked on the United States position with regard to the Middle East issue, the Prime Minister expressed doubts about the possibility of Washington changing its stand on exercising pressure on Israel because of the Jewish lobby's pressure on the United States Congress. "But this should not deter the Arabs from pursuing efforts to exercise pressure on the U.S. administration," the Prime Minister said.

Unions to discuss Jewish immigration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads and representatives of various professional associations in the Arab World will Saturday open a two-day meeting in Amman to discuss the question of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union and East Europe.

RJ to fly twice a week to Canada

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, will operate two weekly flights from Amman to Montreal via New York in accordance with an agreement formally signed in Amman Thursday.

The agreement, which was initiated here in 1988, is bound to promote economic and touristic cooperation between Jordan and Canada, according to Mahmoud Baladz, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

who signed the agreement with Canada's ambassador here.

Ahmad expected 5,000 people, including the representatives of the professional associations, to take part in the march. "At least 200 heads of Arab professional unions will be among those taking part in the May 14 march, a five kilometre stretch from the Martyrs' monument near Karameh to the bridge," Ahmadi, who is president of the Jordanian Professional Association said.

Ahmad, who is also chairman of a committee organising the march, said that the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and ways to support the 29-month-old intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be the main topics on the conference's agenda.

EC, UNRWA sign convention

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new EC-UNRWA convention for the period 1990-1992 was signed recently in Brussels. EC Commissioner for Mediterranean Affairs Abel Matutes received in Brussels Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner general for UNRWA, for the occasion.

The new convention makes available some 72 million ECU (JD 58 million) for the three year period as a direct financial contribution to UNRWA's educational programme for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied territories. This is in addition to the European Community's food and contributions to UNRWA, which have an average value of 20 million ECU per year.

This marks the 7th such convention signed since 1971 between the community and UNRWA. Community aid for the period 1972-89 is estimated at 429 million ECU.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday presents gifts to a school administration in Hamdidiyah during a tour of the south (Petra photo)

Queen visits south, hears demands for better living

KARAK (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Thursday made an extensive tour of rural areas in the Karak and Tafleah governorates where she heard demands from the local residents for improved services and inspected living conditions of local families.

The Queen's first stop was at Hamdidiyah village where she opened a health centre, inspected a school and presented toys, sports equipment and books to the school administration.

Accompanied by Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh and other officials including Inama Al Mufti, director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the Queen

visited a family and enquired about its living conditions.

She also took note of demands made at a public meeting by a local housewife from the Badia area calling for the establishment of community centres to provide local women with vocational training.

Other demands included a call on the government to open a health centre, a community centre, provide better water, road services and housing units in the region.

According to the director of NHF's Social Development Programmes Department Issam Zawawi, NHF had earlier con-

Water supply to rural community, a must for its development — seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — A regional seminar on rural water supply development which was concluded in Amman Thursday issued a set of recommendations calling among other things for clear policies to be taken by countries in the region in the area of water supply and sanitation.

The seminar, organised under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and attended by participants from 14 Arab countries, discussed a range

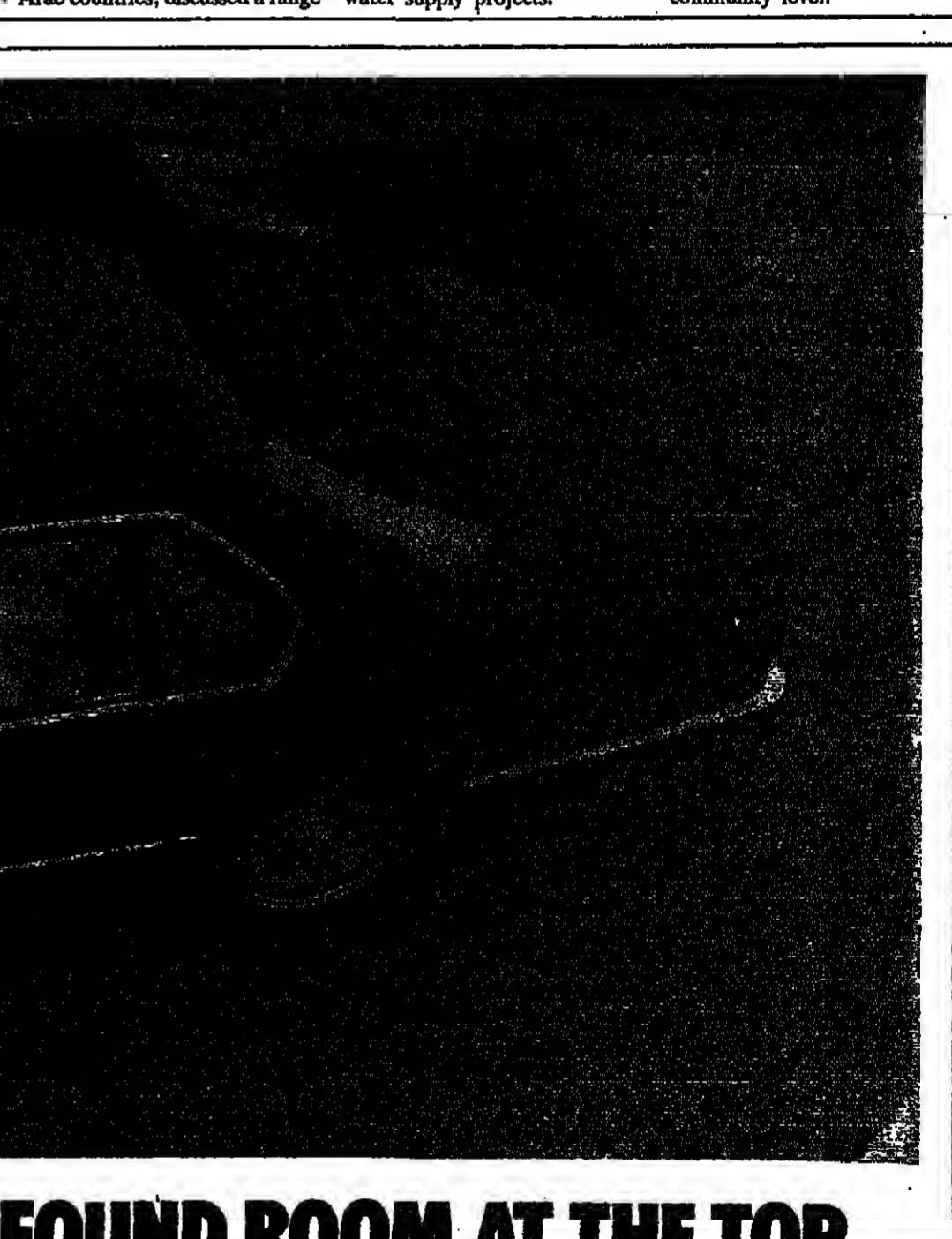
of subjects related to rural development, water supply and sanitation.

Recommendations said that supply of water to rural communities should be an integrated part of an overall strategy for the economic development of these communities.

It called on governments to raise community awareness of good hygiene practices through mass media as well as propagation through personal communication and schools at the community level.

The integration of water, sanitation and hygiene education is essential for improving the health of the rural population and this requires close collaboration between concerned institutions, said the seminar's communiqué.

It called on governments to raise community awareness of good hygiene practices through mass media as well as propagation through personal communication and schools at the community level.



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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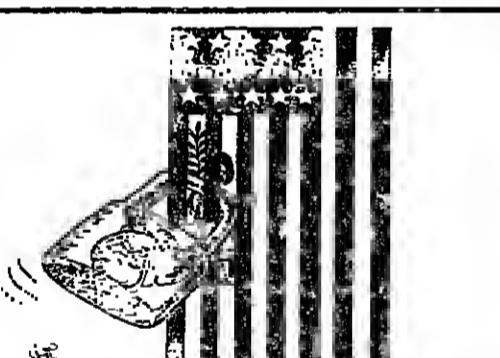
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Setting the record straight

IN THE COURSE of the last few days, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had more than one occasion to refute rumours that held the potential of poisoning the fiscal and economic atmosphere in the country. The governor of the CBJ submitted precise data fortified by undisputed figures about the bank's healthy reserves. The fact that the Central Bank's reserves are a hefty half a billion U.S. dollars already with projection that this amount can reach nearly three-fourths of a billion U.S. dollars before the end of the year is the clearest sign yet that Jordan's fiscal difficulties are being effectively redressed in a relatively short time. Yet, there is a limit to what the government can do to bolster the people's confidence in their own country and its ability to withstand all the economic and fiscal hardships imposed on it. Against the recurrent assurances from the government that the country's economy is well into recovery, it is imperative that Jordanians start believing in themselves and their country by putting a stop to the rumour mill that dishes out misinformation about the country's economic and fiscal strength.

All fairness there are many Jordanians who gave full expression to their faith and confidence in their country by investing in various opportunities ranging from home, construction to business or industrial ventures. It is common knowledge that Jordan's exports have multiplied many times over in the past year thus ushering in a new era in Jordanian development. Many manufacturing enterprises are also mushrooming all over the country thereby promising a brighter economic picture for the future. Meanwhile, the exchange rate of the dinar has stabilised and is expected to maintain its strength. Also the government says it is confident that more Arab and international aid is in the offing which of course could provide a potent shot in Jordan's economic arm. Accordingly the total picture that is emerging from the corroborated data and statistics submitted by the Central Bank offer a clean bill of economic health for the country that should put an end to the preposterous insinuations that the country's economy is deteriorating.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE Arab people of Palestine revolting against Israeli occupation are in dire need of support from their brethren in the Arab World and their zeal and determination can be strengthened if the Arab brothers are united behind their cause, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. The decision to hold a summit meeting in Baghdad, said the paper, can give hope to the Palestinians, and a joint action that could be agreed on at the coming summit is bound to bolster their self-confidence and enthusiasm. Mere talk about the intifada and mere speeches here and there can not lend any real help to the Palestinian people and only through joint action in support of the oppressed Palestinians in deeds rather than words can be of real help to them, the paper added. The people of Palestine who have now started their thirtieth month of uprising against oppression are looking towards their brothers who will be meeting in Baghdad and are hoping that the Arab heads of state will reach consensus on collective action in the face of Israel's arrogance, the paper continued. It said that what is needed now is a translation of the Arab countries' real feelings towards their brothers in Palestine.

A peaceful march towards the King Hussein Bridge on Monday symbolises the Arab people's determination to regain their right in Palestine, says Mahmoud Al Rimawi in his column Friday. The march is aimed also to focus the world public attention on the plight of the Palestinian people under occupation at a critical moment when the Israelis are escalating their oppression and absorbing more immigrants to settle on Arab land, says Rimawi in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Determination to pursue the intifada on the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip can only promote the people in Jordan to carry out a token gesture in support of oppressed people's struggle and show the world the need for enabling the refugees who were turned out from their homeland to return and establish their state, the writer adds. The world should know, says Rimawi that the refugees have all the right to return to their own and lawful lands and must be helped to achieve that goal by all possible means.

Al Dostour daily dwelt again on the subject of an Arab summit meeting and said that it should be held in Baghdad which has been transformed into a real symbol for steadfastness in the face of aggression. By meeting in Baghdad the Arab heads of state emphasise the meaning of victory achieved by Iraq in the Gulf war and reinforce their determination to resist aggression from any source, said the paper. By meeting in Baghdad the Arabs will show beyond doubt that they are behind Iraq in thwarting Zionist conspiracies and defending Arab soil, the paper added. The paper called on Arab leaders to transcend all differences and meet in Baghdad in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people in their fight for the defence of the Arab Nation.

View From Amman

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

Israel vs. the Arabs

Hostile opera, confused audience

WHILE black flags hung over the Holy Sepulchre Church, perhaps for the first time in its history, signifying Christian displeasure over the continued occupation by Jewish zealots of a building belonging to the Orthodox church, the stalemate over the forming of the Israeli cabinet also continued. Jewish rabbis from the various political parties in Israel, as well as a certain rabbi from Brooklyn, New York, remain undetermined as to whether to bless a cabinet by Peres or Shamir. In the meantime, the so-called peace process has halted. United States Secretary of State James Baker is saying nothing and we in the area are bolding our breath to see what the rabbis will decide.

How did the affairs of the region descend to such abyss depths? How did the world come not only to ignore but

also disdain the Arabs and their wishes? What is happening to us? To the Jews? Are all questions that can, at least partially, be answered by a cursory examination of the Zionist view of the Arabs and also their view of their own exalted position as the "chosen people."

Two brief comments should be made before any such serious discussion. First, and most important is that we, Arabs are not wholly innocent of our plight or of what is happening to us. The victim is often a party to the crime against him. Our confusion, irrationality, lack of direction and organisation are but some of the reasons behind our degraded position in life. Second, there are a few Jews; some Zionists and some non-Zionists who also lament and decry what is happening to the

Israelis: the arrogance, the chauvinist extremist fundamentalism and the purely racist tendencies to name but a few phenomena. No less a man than Abba Eban, former Israeli minister of foreign affairs, complained of Israeli "religious extremism," adding (Sic), that Zionism is a "rebelion" against the ascendancy of the rabbis, "against exclusivity." Be that as it may, the fact remains that what seems to be happening in Israel since 1967, indeed since 1948, even before, resembles a series of well produced, stage-managed affairs. Though the voices of the actors on the stage may at times appear discordant even contradictory, each separate voice along with the whole chorus is necessary for the final outcome.

While Menachem Begin, once called king of the Jews says something, his very able

and close associate, Yitzhak Shamir, says something else. David Levy is somewhere in the background uttering something while Arik Sharon in a loud soprano, screeches something else as well. Benjamin Begin, son of King Menachem, considered a rising Likud star, rumbles along joined vociferously by Eitan, Shamron, Arens and a great chorus.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the stage, the image of Golda Meir appears, flanked by Haim Weizman on one side and David Ben Gurion on the other. She looks tenderly at Shimon Peres as he takes centre stage, donning dove's feathers over his hawk's wings. Yitzhak Rabin, emerges from somewhere in the background, and though in the camp of the doves, still sporting his talons and hawkish attire to push him along. With him too is a

great chorus extolling alternately the virtues of peace and war at the same time.

Black robed rabbis with broad brimmed hats and locks of side hair intertwined with their long beards remain in the background. Watching the scene carefully a few onlookers cautiously venture onto the stage once in a while thundering one thing or another. The liturgy in the background, however, is constantly forming a formidable reverberating cacophony that keeps those on the stage, left, right and centre, utterly confused and disoriented. The movement of their collective torso bending forward and backward and their constant swaying give the appearance of constant motion while in fact all, including themselves, continue to be mesmerised in the same spot; and with them, they mesmerise the whole region; and through them they mesmerise the whole world, succeeding as they have in capturing through their litany and chanting the entire Western imagination and resources.

And we in the audience continue to sit glued to what is taking place before us, wringing our hands, scratching our heads and wondering, wondering in wonderment about them and us caught like two great reindeer in the tundra whose horns have entangled in a silent death struggle panting and dying in the cold ice of ignorance and hatred while those around are cheering us along as heartless spectators could cheer the death struggle between two great gladiators.

Underneath it all lies a terrible and baleful ideology that cannot seem to be able to distinguish right from wrongs.

Water! Water! next century's Mideast cry

By Fida Nasrallah

IT IS not oil, but water, which will be the most important geopolitical liquid in the Middle East in the next two decades. Control over the supply of fresh water sources - the lifeline of the Middle East - will be a crucial and dangerous goal. The "hydraulic imperative" could greatly affect the strategic balance of power in the area, may shape inter-Arab alliances, and dictate the future of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The Arab states will have to act in concert over the water issue if they are to prevent themselves from being caught in a position of strategic inferiority.

This impending water crisis is due to a variety of factors - the population boom, growing industrialisation, increasing urbanisation, and pollution. Moreover, it is not limited to any one region of the Middle East but applies to all three river systems in the area namely, the basins of the Tigris-Euphrates, the River Jordan and the Nile.

Playing politics with the Egyptians

Turkey's decision last December to cut off the flow of the Euphrates for one month, in order to fill the reservoir of the Ataturk dam, precipitated a crisis for Ankara, Damascus and Baghdad which actually been brewing for some time. In fact ever since Turkey embarked upon its Grand Anatolian Project (GAP), Arab states have been apprehensive about the immediate and long term implications of the Turkish plan. Indeed, once it is completed, GAP will comprise 21 dams and 17 hydro-electric power plants built on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and their tributaries. This grand project, of which the Ataturk Dam is a major part, aims to transform 9.5 per cent of Turkey's total land area into the breadbasket of the Middle East by the year 2005.

Turkey's project has, with some justification, aroused fears in both Syria and Iraq. GAP will not merely affect the quantity of water available to those two downstream countries but its quality as well. Moreover, they consider Turkey's decision to withhold the river's waters could not have been motivated by technical considerations as the reservoir could have been filled in a fortnight and water from the Karakaya dam could have been used. Turkey's decision, they believe, had less to do with hydrology than with politics.

A number of issues are adversely affecting Turkish-Syrian relations. The most important is Syria's continued support of the Kurdish Marxist PKK in border clashes with Turkey. Official Syrian talk of the "stolen province" of Alexandretta (now Hatay) and the downing of a Turkish civilian plane by Syrian fighters last October have done nothing to improve the situation. But the recent changes in the international climate have had an impact on both countries. Syria now has problems with the USSR, be it on the level of arms supplies, or on blanket approval of political adventures. And Turkey has been reassigned by the United States the role of acting as a counterweight to the regional powers in the Middle East and to push political events in a direction more in line with Western interests. From this perspective, Turkey's actions on the Euphrates could be seen as a political manoeuvre in tune with American interests in continuing to

pressure Syria outside the agreed Lebanese context.

Turkey's disagreement with Iraq, however, is different. Turkey reaped many economic rewards from Iraq (and Iran) during the Gulf war - its Kirkuk pipeline being the only outlet available for the export of Iraqi crude. Moreover, its concern over possible concessions to the Kurds from either Iran or Iraq (a dangerous precedent for the Turkish government) led Turkey to join forces with Iraq against the Kurds, even carrying out operations in northern Iraq with the consent of the Iraqi government.

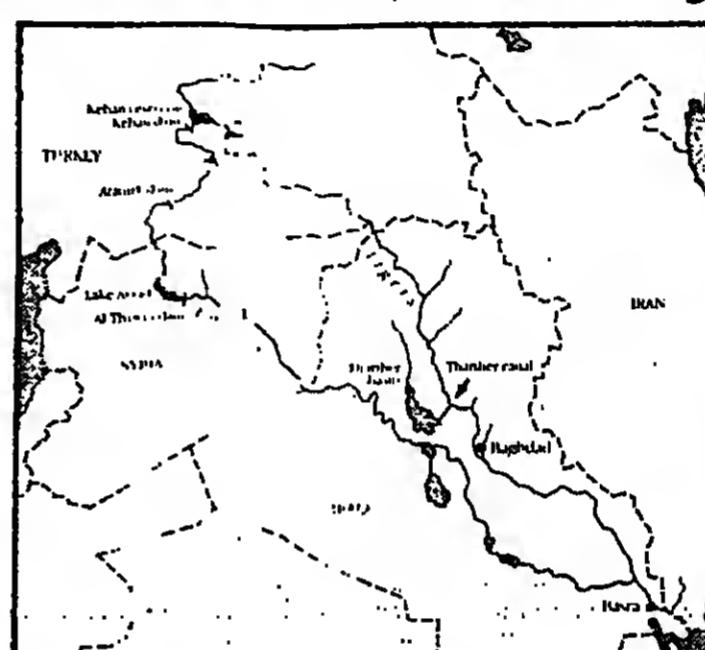
Despite such cooperation, however, Iraq's emergent position from the war as a formidable power in the Gulf has no doubt left the Turks uneasy. Ankara would, therefore, want to stem Iraq's influence by forging alliances with other powers (Iran, Pakistan) to prevent Iraq from reaping the rewards of its victory. Seen in the context of Turkey's new role as the preserver of Middle Eastern stability, Ankara's use of the water issue may be an attempt to demonstrate that it has a hold over Iraq.

Contention over the Jordan

The River Jordan is the other basin over which there is considerable contention. Although much less impressive than the Euphrates in terms of water flow, it has much greater political implications. The Jordan, which originates in the highlands of Lebanon and Syria is used by Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel, and all of these states are experiencing water shortages. The river now satisfies 75 per cent of Jordan's water needs, but its water demands are expected to increase by 50 per cent by the year 2005 and shortages will reach crisis proportions in the mid-1990s. Syria's water problems, also becoming acute, have led to resumption of the construction of the Wahda Dam, on the Syrian-Jordanian border. This joint project with Jordan will tap the river's last undeveloped tributary - the Yarmuk. But whether Israel will allow the project to proceed is an open question.

Israel is already using 95 per cent of its renewable water supplies, over half of it coming from the Jordan. Its continued agricultural expansion and domestic food production - part of its concept of "total defence" - will lead to a 30 per cent shortfall by the end of the century. Unless some agreement with other riparian states is reached, this water crisis could eventually lead to open conflict. Israeli officials constantly claim that water is their life and that they must therefore have complete control over its headwaters.

For Israel, the "hydraulic imperative" and the need to control its water resources has taken on an even greater importance than "secure borders". Indeed, in Israel's last electoral campaign, one of the Likud coalition's arguments for holding on to the occupied territories was that the West Bank and the Golan Heights provided Israel with 40 per cent of its fresh water. The price of withdrawal would be greater than that of continuing the occupation. Recently the Israeli authorities have been greatly concerned about a population explosion in the already densely populated Gaza Strip at the end of the century. This implies that Israel expects to hold on to these territories at least until then.



Israel's need for the Litani waters

Israel's ambitions, however, are not limited to the waters of the Golan and the West Bank; they also include Lebanon's. One of the multiple objectives of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was to control the waters of the Litani. American warnings to Israeli generals that the Litani constituted a "red line" went unheeded. Geological and topographic studies were begun in 1983, and by 1985 Israel had completed ducts aimed at diverting the waters of the Wazzani, one of Litani's tributaries, near the town of Marjayun in South Lebanon. There is increasing concern that Israel is merely waiting for the right political circumstances to implement these projects. Its water crisis is beginning in 1990 and water expenditure is expected to rise from its current level of 1,750 million cubic metres a year to 2,500 million a year by the year 2000. In the light of this and in view of its plans to absorb 900,000 Soviet Jews, Israel's occupation of part of south Lebanon is vital and its eventual annexation a likely objective.

Tel Aviv eyes the Nile

Israel also has ambitions concern-

ing the Nile. Having failed to secure Egypt for diverting the waters of the Nile under the Camp David agreements, Israel has shifted its attention to Ethiopia. Israeli engineers have already begun preparations for building three dams located near the River Abay - one of the Nile's tributaries. These are part of a vast project aimed at improving agriculture and irrigation, but once they are completed they will enable Ethiopia to dictate the flow of the water to Egypt and Sudan. This is because 83-85 per cent of the waters of the Blue Nile flowing into Egypt originate in Ethiopia. Such a problem would threaten Egypt's national security and provide Egypt with a *causus beli* against Ethiopia. But Israel has other strategic interests in cooperating with the Ethiopian government, to prevent the Eritrean rebels from winning their fight for independence, a victory which might bring the Red Sea under effective Arab hegemony. This should, however, be accompanied by considerable Arab backing.

Arab reconciliation and cooperation is required on other fronts as well. In the 1950s, Ben Gurion's strategy was to sidestep the Arab World by cultivating ties with Turkey in the north, Iran in the east, and Ethiopia in the south. The fall of the shah in Iran and Turkey's opening to the Arabs has left Ethiopia the last pillar of this strategy. The onus is now on the Arab states to forge a unified front and work towards a comprehensive Arab strategy for the defence of Arab water - Middle East International, London.

Because of the severe economic damage which water politics is liable to inflict on both Syria and Iraq, the time may have

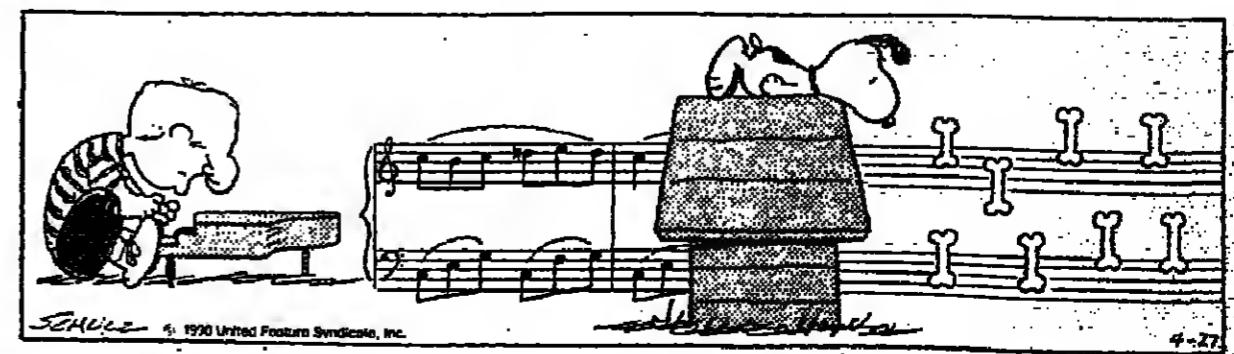
Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Opinion & Analysis

Features

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1990 5

A vision of blindness— Israel and the intifada

Jane Taylor was born in Malacca, but from the age of nine grew up on a farm in West Sussex. Since 1971 her life has been divided between freelance television production, writing and photography around the world.

By Jane Taylor

FOR three days, five-year-old Mohammad did not smile. He had been brought to the children's ward of St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem one Friday with a lime-burned cornea. Earlier that day, at home in Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers had ordered a group of teenagers to whitewash over some pro-PLO graffiti. When a handful of smaller boys started throwing stones, a soldier hurled the can of whitewash, catching Mohammad full in the face.

A nurse came to change his dressing and showed me the opaque milky film covering the whole iris.

On the fourth day Mohammad ventured a smile, and from then on this eye-patched activist recovered his natural effervescence. When we discovered a swing on an outing to the hospital garden, you would have thought paradise had come to earth — there are few swings in Jabaliya.

For Chris Balouris, an American doctor working at St. John's for a year, Mohammad's treatment posed a problem. In North America or Europe a corneal graft would be done after a year or so when the eye had settled, and with good hygiene and regular checks there would be every chance of full recovery.

Here in Jerusalem, by contrast, there is a serious shortage of corneas for grafting — for the Arab population. Consignments (mainly from the U.K. and USA) are erratic and infrequent, and are under recurrent threat of having an import-tax imposed. There is always a waiting-list. Even if Mohammad were lucky, Jabaliya is scarcely the best environment for recovery — access is difficult, conditions dusty and dirty, monitoring limited; and if there were rejection of the new cornea, getting him back to Jerusalem for treatment could present problems.

The movement of Gazans Arabs become more troubled almost daily, and it is already common for ambulances carrying Arabs in need of urgent medical attention to be delayed until the condition is past treatment.

Rather than run the risk of a worse infection," said Dr. Balouris, "it might be preferable to let this little Gazan go blind in one eye. Such agonising decisions have become normal for those who work for the health of the Arab population in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

St. John Ophthalmic Hospital is known to the Arabs whom it serves simply as *Masrafat Al Ayoun*, the eye hospital. There is no other. I had gone there, to see something of its work, in particular as it has been affected by the intifada.

'Harmless bullets'

There has also been a marked increase in the number of traumatic cataracts and squints. I saw a languidly smiling baby who had been brought in with a bad squint. The British orthoptist, Judith Musallam, did all the usual tests and Yasmin smiled, but scarcely moved. At 20 months she could not walk or stand, or even sit upright without support. Her story was quietly told: when she was two months old there was a clash — just one of many — between a group of children and some Israeli soldiers. The soldiers tear-gassed the whole village, aiming several grenades into houses (clearly stated as highly dangerous in the American manufacturers instructions). The older children in the family all vomited, but Yasmin became unconscious, and for two weeks was in a coma in Mokassed Hospital in Jerusalem. Though she has grown since then, her muscles remain limp. The squint was part of this, merely a minor effect of the tear-gas.

While Yasmin was still in Judith Musallam's consulting room, Michael Griffiths, a British army doctor on secondment for one year, came in and put an X-ray on the light box to examine it. In the middle of the left eye socket was a circular space, about one centimetre in diameter — one of the so-called rubber bullets, in fact a metal ball with a thin coating of rubber, at 30 grammes much heavier than regular bullets.

"She's in the clinic now if you would like to see her."

Arabiya, a pretty and lively student nurse, was chatting and laughing with a nurse as she awaited Dr. Griffiths' return. One day, about two months earlier, she had been walking down the street of her home town, Ramallah, on her way to college

national effort is underway to create an endowment fund to cover the costs of this unique hospital in perpetuity.

These costs include running an 80-bed hospital and treating 50,000 patients per year, of which about 5,000 have major surgery and in-patient treatment. There is also an active outreach programme, with a team from St. John's visiting villages and refugee camps in the West Bank twice a week — vital for detecting potentially blinding conditions at an early stage — and the Gaza Strip once a week.

International nature

Today St. John's is a minor United Nations, still British-owned, both the matron and the warden-chief surgeon are British, and some of the doctors and nursing sisters; but there is also a regular turn-over of other Europeans, Americans, Canadians and Australians. The majority of doctors, however, including the deputy warden, are Palestinians. Highly qualified (most trained in Europe or the United States) they are increasingly the mainstay of the hospital, for while most of the foreigners stay only for a year, for the Palestinians it is home, and it is their own people they are serving. The same is true of the nurses.

From 7.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. the out-patients clinic teams with all ages and conditions of people — grandmothers, their white hair turned orange with henna, wearing long, finely embroidered dresses; younger women, in off-the-peg dresses, gaudily machine-embroidered, carrying a baby or leading a child; or both; robed old men, white-bearded like patriarchs, with white keffiyehs on their heads; younger men and children in universal Western clothes. Many wear eye-patches, and many tenderly help others to find where they must go. In this crowded kingdom of the blind, the one-eyed man is not so much king as guide and comforter.

Such gentle sanity pervades the hospital; yet the escalating insanity of the world outside is all too visible in the injuries of many of the patients, for the intifada has created a new genre of eye problem. In the first two years 227 people were treated at St. John Ophthalmic Hospital for eye injuries directly related to the uprising. Of these, 70 lost the sight of one eye, 27 having to have the eye removed. 83 injuries were caused by soldiers beating people over the head; 43 by what the Israeli army calls "harmless" rubber or plastic bullets; five by live bullets; and two from lime-burn — the first was four-year-old, five-year-old Mohammad was the second. In January 1990 a third lime-burn victim was brought in, aged three.

'Harmless bullets'

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Five-year-old Mohammad from Jahaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The day before this photo was taken an Israeli soldier had thrown a can of whitewash over him, resulting in a time-harmed cornea. With a shortage of corneas for grafting (for the Arash population) it is uncertain whether Mohammad will ever see again out of his right eye (Photo by Jane Taylor)

to the two doctors who run the clinic for the rest of the week.

We set off at 6 a.m. and were waved through the Gaza checkpoint by a beaming, burly soldier. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief — it is not always so easy and quick. The last part of the journey was along the kind of coast that dreams and films are made of — white beach, aquamarine sea with rolling waves, and here and there a cluster of beach huts, with chic houses, a tennis court, swimming pool and riding stables nearby. The "Hawaii of Israel," it is called — though this is Gaza, not Israel — for it has been acquired for the use of a handful of Israeli settlers, while 700,000 Gazans live in crowded poverty nearby.

Suddenly there was shooting just outside the clinic, then men shouting and women screaming. Saleh came running to our window from one at the front where he had seen a young man being shot and taken into the house immediately opposite our window. Blue folding metal doors were hurriedly opened and an aged car was driven out with a figure slumped in the back.

"His family are taking him to hospital; but I am sure he is dead," said Saleh. "His brother was killed last week."

Half an hour later the shooting stopped. In the 1½ hours it had lasted Dr. de Cock had done two more operations, quietly disregarding the insanity in the streets.

Another operation was performed in an eerie post-gunsfire silence.

All four cataract patients that morning were women, and all came merrily out of the theatre with a patch over one eye, a smile and a joke, only lying down against because they were told to, otherwise they would have walked straight home. I asked one how she had felt having her eye operated on while she was still conscious, and with gunfire all around.

"Normal," she said with a nonchalant shrug.

"Quiet day," said one of the old men who had been sitting in the clinic.

As we drove back to Jerusalem it was announced on the Hebrew news that a young man of 20 had been killed in Rafah, adding that he had been shot in the back. Three days later the Jerusalem Post reported the death of a 13-year-old Rafah boy, wounded in a clash with troops on Saturday — the one for whom we had heard the first outbreak of shooting that morning.

A quiet day, all quiet normal, not much different from the day before or the day after; for in Gaza and the West Bank the unspeakable has become the unquiet and disquieting normality.

High Above Jordan

There will be an exhibition of some of Jane Taylor's aerial photographs of Jordan in the lobby of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel throughout British Week - 12 to 17 May.

All the photographs are on sale, and all the proceeds will be donated to the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

A few of us stood by an open window of the first floor at the side of the building, with a partial view of the street, listening to the sound of gunfire that was only just out of sight. Suddenly the shouting became louder.

"Someone has been hit," said Saleh, the St. John's driver and universal fixer. "Certainly wounded, maybe killed, I don't know."

Then our eyes started smarting

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Economy

Egypt close to debt accord with IMF

IMF demand

CAIRO (R) — Egypt appears on the brink of sealing an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that would bolster an economy reeling under \$50 billion of debt but bring further hardship to the man in the street.

Egyptian and IMF teams over the last few days have been holding their latest round of talks in Washington. President Hosni Mubarak told reporters Thursday that 18 months of negotiation had yielded agreement.

"It is fair to say they are nearer than they have been," said one Western diplomat. "Presumably they will need at least one more round."

In addition to giving Egypt badly-needed IMF standby credit, an agreement is likely to release new credits from Western aid donors and allow Cairo to go to the Paris Club of creditor nations to reschedule about a tenth of its foreign debts.

Egypt desperately needs cash to finance imports of wheat, stocks of which have fallen to dangerously low levels.

A key IMF demand has been that Egypt take measures to reduce its massive budget deficit, and diplomats say an accord is likely to bring further painful doses of austerity medicine above and beyond last week's increases of up to 130 per cent in the prices of subsidised food, petrol and cooking gas.

Similar increases in 1977 led to bloody riots that forced a fast rollback.

No disturbances were reported following the latest price rises, and diplomats say most Egyptians seem resigned to further measures.

Over the last year the government has gradually introduced a series of "stealth" price increases while at the same time holding our a safety net for the poorest of the country's poor.

The IMF has been urging Egypt to raise its interest rates and allow the over-valued pound to float against other currencies. Those moves would help stem

the creeping dollarisation of an economy, in which, according to economists, around 50 per cent of bank deposits are now denominated in the U.S. currency.

But in the short-term the moves would also add to inflation and put pressure on the balance sheet of Egyptian banks, which have borrowed heavily in dollars.

The government is likely to announce additional austerity measures next month when it releases its budget for the financial year that begins July 1.

Such new LNG capacity would help replace coal and oil-fired power generation. LNG emits about half the carbon dioxide of oil when burned.

About 52 per cent of total LNG imports in 1989 came from Indonesia, 20 per cent from Malaysia, 16 per cent from Brunei, seven per cent from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), three per cent from the U.S. and the rest from Australia and Algeria, according to MITI figures.

The new interest in LNG also results from greater Japanese government concern about securing stable sources of energy supply.

Many of the known LNG supplies are located in politically stable areas such as Australia, Alaska and Southeast Asia, whereas much of Japan's oil supply comes from "politically unstable" Middle East, UBS Phillips and Drew's Shioiri said.

Japanese utilities, however, already have sufficient long-term LNG contracts to meet demand

and could squeeze another 14 to 15 million tonnes from existing supply sources, Toichi said.

If carbon dioxide emission controls to deal with the environmental problems of global warming become stricter, this will not be enough, Toichi said, and Japan would have to look for new projects.

"LNG tankers are very expensive and the longer distance means that you need more tankers," one source said.

But over the long term, the Middle East may be a major source.

"After the year 2000, the Middle East, in particular Qatar, could be a very big source," IEE's Toichi said.

"Utilities are now expected to meet increasing demand mainly by boosting imports from existing suppliers, although in the long term they will be seeking new suppliers," Shioiri said.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Inc. plans to double its LNG imports from Abu Dhabi in 1994 from the current contracted 2.06 million tonnes a year to meet growing power demand.

Abu Dhabi is Tokyo Electric's third-largest LNG supplier with a 20 per cent share, after Malaysia and Brunei. The firm also imports LNG from Australia, Alaska and Indonesia.

Fowlie said he expects East-

Asia's imaging business in Eastern Europe to grow at the rate of 20 per cent a year.

In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, there is a large pent-up demand for high-quality photographic products and services," he said.

The Rochester, New York-based company is negotiating a number of joint ventures in the Soviet Union that involve the sale of consumer products such as film, cameras and finishing supplies, Fowlie said.

The talks involve facilities to build ink-jet printers and X-ray processors.

"We are really at the start of a growth curve in this part of the world," said Fowlie. "But it is one with enormous potential and, in Eastern Europe, already a profitable one."

Chandler reported progress on

Brazil's landless demand reform

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Some 5,000 landless peasants marched through the capital Thursday demanding swift action on agrarian reform.

"Agrarian reform is not a problem, it's a solution," chanted the demonstrators as they descended on the national congress brandishing machetes, hoes and shovels and waving red banners reading, "We want land now."

The issue of land reform has often sparked bloody clashes and divided this nation of 150 million people. Half of Brazil's arable land is in the hands of four per cent of the population, the government says.

Amnesty International says some 1,000 killings linked to land conflicts between ranchers and peasants and church leaders have occurred since

1980 in rural Brazil.

The demonstration, which ended the three-day landless rural workers' national convention, drew thousands of peasants from the remotest regions of South America's largest nation to this modernistic capital.

In a 56-point declaration, the peasants demanded President Fernando Collor de Mello make good on his campaign promise last year to give land to 500,000 families.

The protesters, led by union bosses and leaders of the far-left workers party, also demanded the government distribute 12 million acres (five million hectares) of land to 1.4 million families, as promised by former President Jose Sarney.

Sarney, a civilian rancher and poet, pledged to give out

86.4 million acres (35.6 million hectares) of land during his five-year term that ended March 15. He also promised to build homes for 5.7 million families before the year 2000.

However, landowners with powerful congressional lobbies repeatedly blocked efforts at reform. Only 115,080 families have so far benefited from the programme.

"The goals were not met and the number of homeless is growing, we want to know what the new government plans to do," said Egidio Bruno, leader of the rural workers' union.

Collor, who became Brazil's first popularly elected president since 1960, has repeatedly pledged to bring about a "peaceful and socially just" agrarian reform and protect Indian rights.

However, the government first wanted to study models of land reform being carried out in Spain, Taiwan and Chile before taking similar steps, Cabrera said.

In the meantime, Brazil's 12 million landless peasants living on the poverty line have grown increasingly violent and entered into clashes with powerful landowners.

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In the meantime, Brazil's 12 million landless peasants living on the poverty line have grown increasingly violent and entered into clashes with powerful landowners.

The White House and Congress appear ready to consider a range of measures from value-added taxes to user fees, higher excise taxes on liquor and cigarettes or a national sales tax in order to tackle rising government debt.

The Bush administration, surveying the recent data, seemed to have concluded that the seven-and-a-half year economic expansion was in jeopardy.

He called that Schizophrenic.

Sinai offered that assessment following publication of April figures showing a surprising rise in the unemployment rate to 5.4 per cent from 5.2 per cent in March and an anaemic pace of job creation.

The employment report was recession-like Sinai said, but it contradicted other reports showing a rebound in the economy and a pickup in manufacturing, investment, jobs and

profits have professional advisers scratching their heads.

Market participants need to keep two trucks in sight on the recent data: an economy growing nicely, having seen the worst of a slowdown, or an economy that is headed toward a good deal of weakness where the first-quarter data may have given false signals," said Allen Sinai, chief economist for the Boston Co.

Confusion

Published reports say President George Bush telephoned Senate majority leader George Mitchell within hours of receiving advance news of the weak April jobs report. He proposed budget negotiations at

turing.

Gross national product (GNP) the broadest measure of the nation's economic activity, grew at a healthy 2.1 per cent annual rate in the first quarter after a weak 1.1 per cent in the final quarter of last year.

Purchasing managers said the manufacturing economy picked up slightly in April — after an 11-month decline. Orders went up for a third straight month because exports were strong.

The Bush administration, surveying the recent data, seemed to have concluded that the seven-and-a-half year economic expansion was in jeopardy.

"The economy doesn't change that quickly. It's the numbers that are erratic," Chimerine said.

Chimerine, an independent economist, said it was misguided to think that the economy had abruptly turned down on the basis of the April jobs report.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1990 7



Iraq wins Arab basketball tourney

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Rashid Club of Iraq was crowned Thursday as the champion of the Arab Basketball Championship which was held in Amman between May 2 till May 10. Though defeated by the Saudi club Umm Al Qura in its final match, Al Rashid maintained the top spot in overall standings.

The second place was won by Al Ahli club of Egypt which defeated the Syrian club Al Ittihad 84-83 in the final match of the championship, keeping the Syrian club in the third place.

The fourth place went to Al Orthodox club, the host, after Kathima of Kuwait withdrew from the championship, thus leading the championship's technical committee to cancel off its results.

In ladies competition Al Malah club of Tunisia won the first place, followed by Algerian club Hussein Didi and in the third place was Al Thawra of Syria. Jordan's two entries in the championship, Al Orthodox and Al Ahli, occupied the fifth and the sixth places respectively. Photo above shows scene from a match that took place between Al Rashid and Kathima Wednesday.

Mexico beats U.S.

BURNABY, Canada (AP) — Luis Flores scored in the 10th minute as Mexico beat the United States 1-0 Thursday night in the 3-nations cup soccer tournament. Flores redirected a shot by Victor Medina from just inside the 18-yard box that barely eluded Tony Meola, goalkeeper of the World Cup-bound U.S. team at 9:30.

Mena was flawless the last 80 minutes to keep the Americans within striking distance. The stocky 20-year-old made 10 saves — many spectacular — compared with nine by Mexico's goalkeeper Hugo Pineda.

The loss dropped the U.S. to 0-2 in the three-country, round-robin tournament that ends Sunday when the Canadian national team plays Mexico.

Canada beat the Americans 1-0 last Sunday in the opening game of the inaugural series for the Corona Cup. The 1991 event will be in Los Angeles.

The Mexicans controlled the tempo of Thursday's game with their accurate passing. The Americans had few offensive buildups through midfield.

The U.S. team featured several players not likely to play in the World Cup next month. Most of the top Americans were on the east coast for another series of exhibition games.

Brazil boasts soccer squad

TERESOPOLIS, Brazil (AP) — Coach Sebastiao Lazaroni of the national soccer team rejected criticism Thursday that his team will have one of its strongest squads ever in the World Cup this summer.

"The history of the World Cup shows there are cycles," Lazaroni said. "Some are mostly technique, others mainly strength, some are rotation. The current moment is one of competitiveness. If you don't have skill, strength and mobility, you are left behind."

Lazaroni spoke to reporters during a break in the team's final week of training camp in this mountain resort city near Rio.

Brazil plays East Germany in an exhibition game Sunday and leaves Wednesday for Europe.

The coach refuted criticism that his team is too timid on offense, but admitted Brazil would use only two attackers instead of the traditional three.

"I'm only taking five defenders and I've been criticised for that. Some teams are taking eight," he said.

"The important thing is balance between the attack and defence, and that's what we're trying for," Lazaroni added.

Asked about a comment by former star midfielder Socrates that the team lacks a field general, Lazaroni said, "Brazil has changed from the days when Gerson, Didi, or Zico commanded the offence. Now the team is the star, not any individual player."

Asked to list his favourites to win the cup, Lazaroni said, "Brazil, Brazil, Brazil. Then Italy, West Germany, the Netherlands, and the Soviet Union."

Injured attacker Romario will join the team in Spain on May 17th, and will have one week to prove he has recovered from a broken leg, Lazaroni said.

"I expect to have him back," the coach said. "He has no pain and no atrophy, and he said he feels good and optimistic. But if he's not in condition by the 25th another player will be called up."

Lazaroni also said he was prepared to face the traditional hostility of fans if Brazil doesn't win the cup.

"Winning or losing a World Cup is the limit of passion and pain, and like all Latins we sometimes go to far," he said.

"Anyway," he added with a smile, "I already have a swat (special police) team at the house."

Navratilova downs Cecchini

dashes to the net. Robbed of the pace which helps her hard-hitting game, Capriati began making unforced errors from the baseline.

In the second-set tiebreak, Capriati had a match point at 8-7 but sailed a forehand long. Two points later, Golarsa closed out the tiebreak with a perfectly placed drop shot.

Golarsa broke for a 1-0 lead in the final set, but Capriati won six of the next seven games and ended the match with a forehand serve return that clipped the net and fell over for a winner.

"I was feeling tired at the end of the second set but after the first game of the third set I regrouped," Capriati said. "She was hitting short and low and I decided to attack more."

Sanchez-Vicario said the fatigue was a factor in her loss to Kelesi, the 11th seed.

"After seven tournaments this year, I'm tired," said last year's French Open champion. "I gave it everything I had today. I attacked on the important points. But my shots kept going long. I guess it just wasn't my day."

Kelesi, who reached the Rome finals in 1988, trailed 2-4 in both sets. She and Sanchez both played similar baseline-hugging, topspin games, but it was the Canadian hustling all over the court and shouting "yeah" after her winners, who made the least mistakes.

Navratilova, who was extended to three sets Wednesday by Australian Rachel McQuillan, found herself in trouble again against Cecchini.

Playing in front of her home fans on the Foro Italico centre court, the 14th-seeded Italian captured the second set by changing the rhythm with slices and drop shots.

Cecchini broke Navratilova in the first game of the third set and held serve for a 2-0 lead. But the American left-hander cut down on her mistakes, took control of the net and lost only eight more points the rest of the way.

Navratilova, who wore a bandage around her left thigh, said the hamstring injury bothered her on some points.

"I can't say that I was at 100 per cent," she said. "I couldn't get down on some volleys and low balls. But it's better than yesterday so I'm encouraged."

Capriati, the 12th seed in her fourth pro tournament, also faced her toughest challenge so far this week.

After winning the first set handily, Capriati had trouble coping with Golarsa's defensive, off-speed shots and surprise

win the tournament.

The organisers said another American, Pete Sampras, had also withdrawn after being injured at the West German Open in Hamburg this week.

Navratilova said Wednesday she saw no reason to stop playing tennis while she remains among the best in the world — even though she is nearly a generation older than most of her leading rivals.

"I believe that if you enjoy it and do it for the right reasons, there's no reason not to go on playing," the 33-year-old American, eighth times Wimbledon champion said.

"I'm a clear (world) number two and have every chance to win a grand slam tournament. I'd be crazy to quit," she said after winning her second round match at the Italian Open championship where she is top seed.

Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, who turns 20 next week, said she did not think she would still be playing on the professional circuit in 10 years time.

Sabatini, the holder and fourth seed who is already talking of wanting to enjoy life outside tennis, is herself a few years older than many of the other seeds at the Rome tournament.

The second seed is 16-year-old Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, while 14-year-old Capriati of the United States, a professional only since March, is seeded 12th.

"Only Chris (Evert) and I have played this long," Navratilova said.

Chris, 34, her archrival for so many years, retired last year at the age of 34.

"I remember when I was in my early twenties and saw Billie Jean King (King) playing, if someone had asked me if I was going to play that long I would have said 'no way.'

Navratilova has her sights set on a record ninth Wimbledon crown and said an important part of her preparation was rest.

"I don't need any extra practice on grass before Wimbledon. I simply need a little rest."

She said she was not playing the French Open because it left her only three days rest before the Eastbourne tournament and Wimbledon.

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OVER BOARD

Cheney predicts fewer nuclear weapons ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — NATO nations will have fewer nuclear weapons as a result of an alliance strategy review, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney predicts.

Cheney, speaking with reporters after a two-day NATO meeting in Canada, also left the door open for a unilateral withdrawal of aged nuclear artillery shells from Western Europe.

"It's entirely possible," Cheney said. "It wouldn't be the first time it's been done."

The defence secretary said the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) clearly is in the mood to pare its nuclear arsenal in light of the near-evaporation of the Warsaw Pact, prospects for Soviet troops withdrawals from Eastern Europe and East-West agreements to slash conventional forces.

Given those developments, "you can also take down nuclear forces," Cheney told reporters aboard his plane returning to Washington.

"We want to go to the lowest level (of nuclear weapons) we can... we don't want any more nuclear weapons than necessary," he said.

The meeting was the first alliance discussion of nuclear issues after President George Bush announced he had dropped plans to upgrade short-range nuclear Lance missiles and was scrapping a move to modernise nuclear artillery.

At the conference, Dutch and West German officials pressed for speedy, unilateral elimination of the 1,600 nuclear-tipped artillery shells. The weapons are designed to be used within a 10 to 32-kilometre range to halt an overwhelming advance of Warsaw Pact troops.

21 killed in Mexican plane crash

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (R) — A twin-engine computer plane crashed and burned in a field outside this Mexican City Thursday, killing at least 21 people, including a Mexican bishop flying in Pope John Paul II's visit.

The flight departed from the city of Tapachula near the Guatemalan border Tuxtla Gutierrez, about 600 kilometres southeast of Mexico City.

Tuxtla's bishop, Monsignor Felipe Aguirre Franco, told reporters that Bishop Luis Miguel Canton Marin, 49, of Tapachula, as well as two other priests died in the crash.

Rescue workers said the bishop's cross and bible were among personal belongings pulled from the fire-gutted fuselage.

Pope John Paul II was due to arrive Friday for a brief visit and say a mass before departing for the nearby city of Villahermosa.

Five survivors walked away with only minor injuries, according to Chiapas state government spokesman Eladio Castro. At least seven were listed in critical condition in hospital.

Survivor Luis Calderon, 45, told Reuters, "I am very Catholic and I prayed a lot, but I don't consider this is a miracle. I feel it just part of my life."

Calderon, who was almost untouched in the crash, said he pulled three children from the burning fuselage after the crash. Rescue officials said at least two other children died.

A Vatican spokesman travelling with the Pope in Monterrey said the Pontiff was saddened to hear of the tragedy and would change his schedule to bless the bodies at a special ceremony during his brief visit.

"The Pope wants to pray for the victims and console their families," said spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

The crash occurred Thursday morning in a barren sorghum field about 4.5 kilometres from the local airport, which sits atop a mountain.

Miguel Angel Guardarrrama, director-general of Aviacsa, said the cause of the crash was under investigation but insisted that the 23-year-old Dutch-built Fokker Turboprop had been in good condition.

Calderon said the plane's right engine had shut down as it attempted to land. He said the pilot attempted to pull the plane back up and circle for another approach but lacked enough power.

At his homily later in Monterrey Thursday, the Pope asked people attending mass in a dried riverbed to join him in praying for those killed and injured in the crash.

"We ask God to concede eternal rest to the dead and a quick recovery to the injured," he said.



Dick Cheney

main in Europe as a fundamental deterrent and as a means of avoiding war.

Conventional forces alone won't prevent an outbreak of war, he argued.

He described as "very, very shakily thinking" the view that Europe can rid itself of nuclear weapons when NATO and the Warsaw Pact reach parity in conventional forces.

"Everybody wants to operate as though the future is here today," he said, repeating his oft-stated warning that although changes in Soviet military posture in Europe have begun, they are by no means complete.

The short-range forces under discussion have come to prominence in light of the U.S.-Soviet treaty eliminating intermediate-range nuclear systems, which had a range of more than 480 kilometres.

The alliance, in its statement, acknowledged that the decision to cut back on shorter-range weapons places more emphasis on air-launched nuclear missiles, which also must be upgraded in the coming decade.

German army transport plane crashes; 5 killed

WUERZBURG, West Germany (AP) — A West German army transport plane crashed near the western city of Wuerzburg Friday and burst into flames, killing at least five of 10 people on board, officials said.

Defence Ministry officials said the plane went down in a remote, wooded area near Wuerzburg, which is about 120 kilometres south of Frankfurt.

The plane was loaded with fuel, officials said. A witness reported seeing the airplane flying low over the area just before the crash, according to police.

The witness heard the plane crash at about 9:20 a.m. (0720 GMT), said police.

Recovery teams found the bodies of five passengers, said the Wuerzburg police department.

"We expect that the five others also did not survive the crash," said a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

'Near-miss' reported

On Thursday, a British airliner nearly collided with two U.S. Air Force jets, and two passengers were injured when the plane's pilot made a nose dive to avoid a crash, authorities said.

The Dan-Air British turboprop was on a flight from West Berlin to Saarbruecken, near the French border, and was carrying 15 passengers, including child, and a crew of six.

A statement by the Rhineland-Palatinate State Interior Ministry said two passengers required hospital treatment for contusions.

U.S. lacks clear course in space, study says

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. space programme lacks a clear course for the future despite the stated goals of missions to the Moon and Mars, according to a congressional study.

Congress must decide what kinds of spacecraft it wants and then provide enough funding, said the three-year study by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

"Because the lack of a clear future course for U.S. space activities makes the scale and character of future demand for space transportation highly uncertain," the study said. "It is not sensible to choose among space transportation options without first selecting the specific goals to be served."

Last year President George Bush said the United States wanted to put a staffed base on the Moon and send a mission to Mars in the next century. Both depend on the operation of space station freedom, the United States' long-delayed orbiting space laboratory.

The National Aeronautics and

De Klerk arrives in Greece

ATHENS (R) — President F.W. De Klerk Friday became the first South African leader to visit Greece and met Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis on the second leg of an 18-day European tour to explain his political reforms.

De Klerk was greeted at Athens airport by Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras, who took him to the office of President Constantine Karaniklis and to see Mitsotakis.

The Greek Left Party said in a statement Mitsotakis was wrong to receive De Klerk and Foreign Minister Pitsikas "since the two men have been linked to the most cruel moments of apartheid."

It urged opponents of apartheid to gather in central Athens in the evening for a rally to oppose De Klerk's visit.

De Klerk said after meeting French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris Thursday that it was time for the European Community (EC) to reassess its anti-apartheid sanctions.

He was due to take the same message to eight other EC countries and Switzerland during a tour which erodes South Africa's long political isolation from the West.

A South African government source said Pretoria hoped to get a sympathetic hearing from the new conservative government of Greece, which last month ended eight years of Socialist rule and one year of weak rule.

Greece could play a pivotal role if there was a move at next month's EC summit to review sanctions against Pretoria.

The Community is divided over how to react to De Klerk's initiatives, with Britain alone deciding to ease some restrictions against Pretoria.

Greece has backed the EC majority's demand for clear evidence of irreversible change as a condition for easing sanctions, but South Africa believes it could swing if France or West Germany was to back Britain.

"They were still demonstrating the safety equipment when it occurred," she said. "There were three explosions, loud explosions, and the ceiling shattered. On the second explosion, I immediately opened the emergency exit."

The cabin filled with smoke but most of those on board managed to escape by sliding down emergency chutes before flames engulfed the plane, Santos said.

Echoing De Klerk's message to Mitterrand in stronger terms, the source said Pretoria believed it had already given evidence of its commitment to ending apartheid and it was time for Europe to respond with a positive gesture.

"There is no way that this government can go back. The only way the changes will not be irreversible is if the right or the left takes over in South Africa," the source said.

Greek officials were cautious about the outcome of De Klerk's visit, the fifth by a leader of the white minority government in South Africa, which has a 100,000-strong Greek community.

"We expect very little from the visit. Our trade relations are close to nil as a result of European Community sanctions," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zografou.

Canadian diplomats said Botha, South Africa's foreign minister for the past 13 years, would meet visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark in Athens Sunday.

The Saarbruecker Zeitung newspaper reported that the Dan-Air plane missed the oncoming jets by 15 metres.

Bucharest Peasant Party drops out of Romanian parliament

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — The National Peasant Party, one of the three leading parties, has dropped out of Romania's makeshift parliament to protest recent violent attacks on opposition leaders, the Romanian news agency Rompress said Friday.

The agency said Ion Diaconescu, vice president of the Peasant Party, announced the withdrawal to a session of the parliament, known as the Provisional Council of National Unity.

It said without giving details that Diaconescu cited the level of violence in the current election campaign as the party's reason for pulling out of the provisional parliament.

The Peasant Party was one of Romania's main political parties before World War II and claims to have attracted some 600,000 members since Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was ousted by popular revolt last December.

On Wednesday, Ion Raifu, the Peasant's candidate for president in the May 20 elections, joined with another opposition leader, Radu Campeanu of the National Liberal Party, in offering to withdraw from the presidential race.

The two said they would pull out if Interim President Ion Iliescu, who is favoured to win, also

Nepali Communist leader says king undermining new government

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's leading Communist said Friday that King Birendra was trying to undermine the new interim government and called for an investigation into the "ill-gotten" wealth of monarchs.

"Every effort is being made by the palace to discredit and undermine this government," Manoharan Adhikary, general secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal, said in an interview.

Adhikary said the United Left Front had agreed to the idea of a constitutional monarchy and its main demand was to investigate the money made by palace loyalists.

"The ill-gotten wealth amassed in the last 30 years must be investigated. Everybody knows how much wealth they have. It can be checked," he said.

"But the palace is interfering because the king's brother, wife, relatives and secretaries will be exposed," Adhikary said.

He said his party did not want to put too much pressure on the government on this issue because "we want this government to succeed."

Communists have joined the government for the first time in Nepal's history.

The party was banned in 1960

when King Mahendra, Birendra's father, dismissed parliament and the popularly elected Congress Party government.

He abolished the multiparty system and introduced the partyless Panchayat (council) system.

Birendra scrapped the partyless system last month in the face of the demonstrations. Scores were killed when security forces fired on protesters marching to the palace.

The king swore in an interim government, restored the multiparty system and promised free elections within a year.

Within weeks the Communist Party opened its first legal office in 30 years and its members began to operate openly.

Adhikary said his party, which had launched the struggle for democracy along with Nepali Congress, would fight the next elections as its coalition partner.

"This alliance is the outcome of our experience over the last 30 years. In the past there was no unity even among Communists and the advantage always went to the king," he said.

"If we go into the election divided, we will be defeated," Adhikary added.

COLUMN

Car company apologises for Graf lookalike

BONN (R) — The head of the Opel car company publicly apologized to West German tennis star Steffi Graf Friday and promised to withdraw a scantly-clad Graf lookalike surrounded by half-naked men. "Dear Steffi, I am disappointed that no one from the responsible department or the ad agency got your permission for this advertisement," wrote Louis Hedges, management board chairman of Opel, the West German unit of General Motors Inc.

"I will personally assure you that it will never happen again," the Bild newspaper quoted Hedges as telling the world's number one woman player by letter. He said the advertisement would be stopped as quickly as possible. The advertisements featuring model Debbie Dickinson, who bears a remarkable resemblance to Graf, caused a sensation when they appeared in newspapers across West Germany. Graf issued a statement denying she was the woman reclining in an open-top Opel Corsa surrounded by half-dressed men.

Lack of nice men keeps Japanese women unmarried

TOKYO (R) — Most single Japanese women think the main reason they have not yet tied the knot is a scarcity of "nice men," a survey published Friday showed.

The survey of 500 women conducted by the Altman Institute, a Tokyo-based matchmaking agency, found that four out of five did not think they had even seen any nice men recently. The survey showed a "nice man" was one who was good-looking, intelligent, talkative, and highly paid.

Gabor files complaint against 'biased' judge

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor has filed a complaint against a Beverly Hills judge who ordered her to serve another 60 hours of community service for breach of probation in her police slapping case, her publicist said Thursday. Phil Palodino said Gabor had written to the California Committee on Judicial Performance and the California Bar Association complaining that Judge Charles Rubin had shown bias against her and was seeking publicity from the case.

During a speech after the coup attempt, Aquino said Cojuangco, Vice President Salvador Laurel and opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile should answer to the people about their possible roles in the rebellion.

All three denied involvement. Enrile was arrested last February on rebellion and murder charges and was freed on bail. No trial date has been set.

"One of our major tasks is to find out the causes and solutions of this coup," said Commission Member Ricardo Romulo. "Mr. Cojuangco being a major businessman and political leader in this country, we were hoping he would help us."

Japanese prince to wed in June 29

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's royal wedding, which officials announced Friday would be held in June, will be heavy with pomp and tradition. In one of the final formalities before the ceremony, imperial messenger Yasuo Shigeta, dressed in a somber gray morning coat and carrying a silk baton, will call on Prince Aya's fiancee, Kiko Kawashima, and her parents at their home Friday.

Some protesters also demanded the resignation of the Provisional Council of National Unity.

One of the groups leading the protest — the National Alliance for the Proclamation of Timisoara, held a news conference Thursday demanding that the talks with Iliescu be broadcast live on television.

The Western city of Timisoara is the site of a massacre that sparked the December revolution.

The proclamation of Timisoara, adopted last month at a rally there, demands the formal exclusion of former Communist officials, including Iliescu, from politics.

Dialogue between Iliescu and the protesters is due to resume Saturday. But the government has not said whether the talks will be filmed.